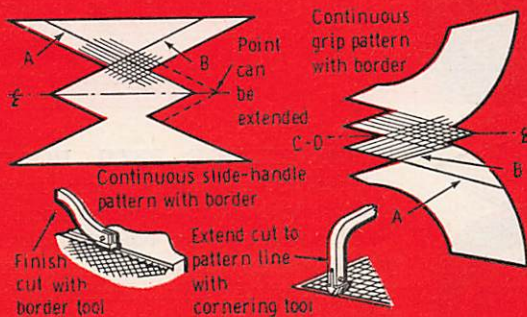


Checker Your Own



MACHINE JOB takes fewer passes than hand-tooling. Note that checkering is

Checkering—as simple or elaborate as you choose—turns a standard gun into a beautiful custom piece

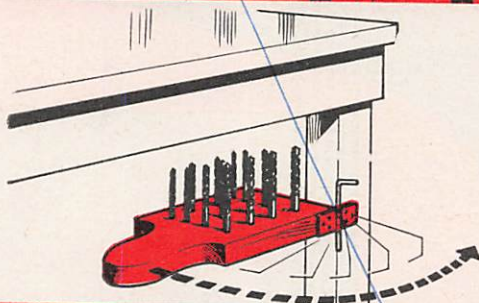
FIRST-RATE hand checkering on a shotgun or rifle stock is the mark of a master craftsman. Yet it's easier to do than you might think. It simply takes time and an extra measure of care.

Probably the most common type of checkering is a simple point pattern consisting of individual panels on each side of the grip and forearm. More involved are patterns in which checkering is carried over the top of the grip, or tang, and around the bottom of the forearm.

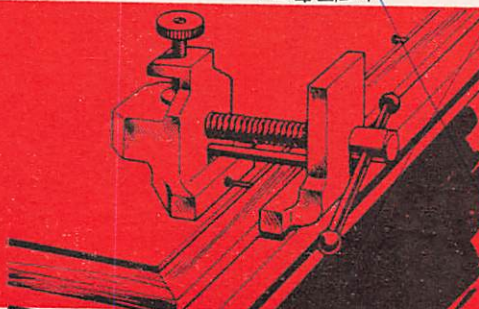
HINTS FROM READERS



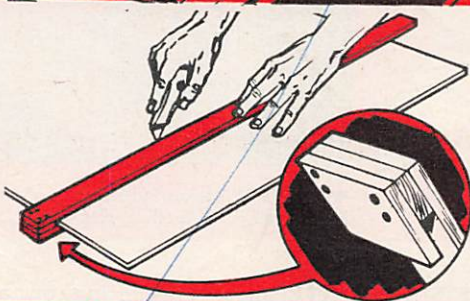
TRY-SQUARE RIPPING WEDGE is ideal to keep a handsaw from binding in long cuts. Just slip the square's blade in the kerf behind the saw and move it along as you cut. The thicker handle rides the face of the work and prevents the square from dropping through. Since you've just used it to lay out the cut, it's right at hand.



SWING-OUT DRILL CADDY can be made from a scrap of 2x6 lumber, band-sawed to the shape of a square paddle. Using the drills you wish to store at the workbench, bore a $\frac{3}{4}$ -in.-deep socket for each, then hinge the paddle so it swings back out of the way. A removable pin lets you tote the caddy to a job site.



SMALL VISE DRIVES BRADS in tricky places where you can't get at them with a tack hammer—such as the back of a picture frame. You risk knocking the miters apart or cracking the glass if you pound brads in here, but if you press in the tip, then apply the vise as shown, you can sink a brad easily. —*Frank Shore*



STRAIGHTEDGE WITH HOOK END catches the far edge of any large panel and prevents slippage as you scribe along it. This is especially helpful when cutting plasterboard, since a straying knife can ruin the whole sheet. Form the hook by tacking on plywood through a spacer the same thickness as the panel.



IMPROVISE A PRICK PUNCH by inserting a nail through a bottle cork, as shown at left. You can grip the cork easily for accurate placement of the nail tip, and your fingers are insulated from the sting of the blow. The cork also prevents loss of the nail and makes it easy to fish out of a pocket. —*G. E. Hendrickson*